

69-1401/A

2 April 1969

Mr. Donald Q. Coster, AID Adviser
John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare (Airborne)
Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307

Dear Don:

Thank you for your thoughtful and imaginative letter of 11 March which I read with interest and passed to some of my associates for their reactions and comments. I am sorry the reply has been rather slow.

I certainly agree that the public relations aspect of our Vietnam effort is far from the least of the problems posed by this complex struggle and that the many positive, constructive aspects of our activities generally get short shrift (where they are not ignored altogether) in the press and public media.

Though I do not want to sound bureaucratic, several facets of your germinating project fall well outside our official parish. As you know, we are specifically enjoined by statutes (which I must interpret literally) to stay away from propaganda activity aimed at United States audiences. Furthermore, reasonably overt activities abroad of the type your proposed project would seem to envisage fall under USIA's aegis rather than ours, particularly when they involve enlisting the support of major United States corporations such as IBM or United States journals such as the Paris HERALD TRIBUNE.

Jurisdictional boundaries within the United States Government establishment, however, should not be allowed to stifle new or imaginative ideas, particularly on matters as important as the Vietnam effort. Let me suggest, therefore, that you develop your thoughts in somewhat greater detail and send the elaboration along for me to examine more closely. Even if the recommendations indeed prove to fall outside my areas of direct responsibility, as I suspect they may well, I will ensure that they are appropriately put in the hands of those who are responsible for such matters. In the interim, thank you again for the letter and for passing along your thoughts.

Cordially,

Richard Helms
Director

Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600030056-8

SENDER WILL CH-566/91098 - CIA-RDP80R01720R000600030056-8

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	SAVA		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

Remarks:

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.

DATE

Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600030056-8

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET